

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 107085

LIMDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE PANAMA FROM USUN NEW YORK DTD  
29 APR 1976 QUOTE

S E C R E T USUN 1828

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON NEW PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH AQUILINO BOYD AT THE UNITED NATIONS  
OVER THE YEARS LEADS US TO A PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF HIS  
PROBABLE IMPACT ON U.S./PANAMA RELATIONS AS PANAMANIAN  
FOREIGN MINISTER. BOTH HIS TRACK RECORD AND HIS UNSTABLE  
PERSONALITY SUPPORT THIS CONCLUSION.

2. AS A VERY AMBITIOUS MEMBER OF PANAMA'S UPPER CLASS,  
EDUCATED IN THE U.S., BOYD MUST CONSTANTLY POLISH HIS  
ULTRANATIONALISM TO MAINTAIN HIS CREDENTIALS WITH THE  
TORRIJOS REGIME. THIS IMPELS HIM TO ASSUME RADICAL POSTURES  
AND TO TAKE ON THE U.S. VERBALLY WHENEVER AN OPPORTUNITY  
PRESENTS ITSELF. HIS FREQUENT INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS ON THE  
CANAL ZONE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE CONTEXT OF UNREALATED  
DISCUSSIONS ARE EXAMPLES. WHETHER THE SUBJECT IS TIMOR,

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LOYADA OR THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, BOYD BRINGS IN THE PANAMA CANAL

AND THE GREAT INJUSTICES PERPETRATED ON HIS INNOCENT COUNTRY. IN ADDITION BOYD TENDS TO LOSE EMOTIONAL CONTROL IF HE IS BACKED INTO A CORNER. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, AMBASSADOR BOYD IN CONVERSATIONS WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVES HERE HAS QUITE LITERALLY BECOME HYSTERICAL. HE SEEMS TO PROCEED ON THE THEORY THAT, IF PANAMA GOES ON KICKING THE UNITED STATES IN THE GROIN LONG ENOUGH, WE WILL BE GRATEFUL TO THE PANAMANAIANS WHEN THEY FINALLY STOP.

3. BOYD AND HIS WIFE ARE SOCIALLY ATTRACTIVE, AND HE CAN BE CHARMING, WELL MANNERED AND ENTIRELY PLAUSIBLE WHEN NOT UNDER PRESSURE. HIS WIFE IS A HANDSOME WOMAN OF DIGNITY AND PRESENCE. WE HAVE FOUND IT BEST TO ATTEMPT TO DO BUSINESS WITH BOYD ON AS RELAXED A BASIS AS POSSIBLE. UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAS ON OCCASION PARTED FROM US AMICABLY, ONLY TO ROUSE HIMSELF LATER TO AN EMOTIONAL STATE IN WHICH HE ALTERS HIS RECOLLECTION OF THE EARLIER CONSULTATION.

4. IT IS TO BE RECALLED THAT IT WAS BOYD WHO ENGINEERED THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN PANAMA IN 1973. ON THAT OCCASION, THERE WAS LITTLE GROUND FOR CHOICE AS TO REASONABLENESS BETWEEN BOYD AND TACK. WE ARE CONCERNED LEST BOYD AGAIN ARRANGE A SECURITY COUNCIL EXERCISE THAT WILL FURTHER DIM PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY. PANAMA IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR. A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON PANAMA AT THE HEIGHT OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WOULD NOT BE AN ATTRACTIVE PROSPECT, WHETHER HELD HERE OR ON THE ISTHMUS.

5. WE CAN EXPECT 96\$ 59 5334 - 0-,-,-,8-, :974 3 8, 5#3 7,853\$ ,-589, \$843:53\$ -5 &-8,8,& -/8.7. 700945 \*94 0-,-,- 9, 5#3 :-,-) 8 73. THIS MAY INCLUDE AT TIMES SUPPORT FOR POSITIONS OF MODERATES, AS PANAMA CAN COUNT ON EXTREMIST SUPPORT ON THE CANAL ISSUE IN ANY EVENT. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS SEEMED EVIDENT DURING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON TIMOR WHICH ENDED ON APRIL 22. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE PANAMA ATTACHES TO HER RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA, AND WITH JAPAN, PANAMA SUPPORTED AN UNSUCCESSFUL AMENDMENT BY THE LATTER WHICH WOULD HAVE MODERATED A RESO-

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LUTION CO-SPONSORED BY GUYANA AND TANZANIA (USUN 1712 NOTAL). AFTER THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE HAD THEN BEEN ADOPTED, PANAMA SOUGHT TO REPAIR FENCES WITH THE RADICALS BY VOICING A DESIRE TO BECOME A CO-SPONSOR OF THE RESOLUTION (IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER THE RULES).

6. IN SUM, BOYD IS A MAN OBSESSED WITH THE CANAL ISSUE AND IMPELLED FOR PERSONAL REASONS TO MAKE THINGS NASTY FOR THE

UNITED STATES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS IN THE SEEMING CONVICTION  
THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY BE EMBARRASSED INTO MAKING THE KIND  
OF CONCESSIONS DEMANDED BY PANAMA IN THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.  
WE HAVE ARGUED LONG AND EARNESTLY, BUT TO NO AVAIL, WITH  
BOYD THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS  
ALREADY CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR CHANGES IN OUR RELATIONS WITH  
PANAMA AND THE TASK NOW IS TO BRING THE UNITED STATES SENATE  
ALONG TO THAT CONVICTION THROUGH QUIET, PATIENT, BILATERAL  
EFFORTS. WE HAVE POINTED OUT REPEATEDLY THAT ONE OF THE  
QUICKEST WAYS TO TURN SENATORIAL AND OTHER U.S. OPINION  
AGAINST A MODERN TREATY, IS FOR PANAMA TO FOLLOW A COURSE  
OF TRYING TO PUT THE UNITED STATES IN THE DOCK AT THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND IN OTHER MULTILATERAL FORUMS AND TO  
HAVENPANAMA'S CAUSE INTERNATIONALIZED BY SUCH STATES AS  
CUBA, ALGERIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO PERSUADE  
BOYD THAT THIS COURSE WILL DENY HIM THE VERY THING HE  
IS SEEKING AND MAKE IT HARDER RATHER THAN EASIER FOR THE  
UNITED STATES AND PANAMA TO AGREEHON RATIONAL SOLUTIONS  
TO OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS. WEHAVE NEVER FELT WE HAD  
ANY SUCCESS WITH BOYD IN NEW YORK.  
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